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NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION: OFFICE TREATMENT OF NAMES

Policy governing the use of names of living persons in toponymic designations

Paper submitted by Canada**

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** Prepared by the Commission de toponymie du Québec.

Summary

With a view to facilitating the application of the toponymic standard governing the use of names of people in place-names, the members of the Commission at a recent meeting adopted a new policy statement which is supplemented by underlying basic principles and is intended to clarify when it is appropriate, as regards the use of both toponyms and odonyms, to allow exceptions to the rule prohibiting the use of names of living persons or persons who have been dead for less than one year. It should be noted that the existing standard in the Guide toponymique du Québec, section 6.1.7, reads as follows: "Places shall not be named after living persons. Only the names of persons who have been dead for more than one year and were of definite historical significance or had close ties with the place to be named may be used."